

Spring 2007

Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department



WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Collection Event (April 21st)

Happy Earth Day! (April 22nd)

Visit www.epa.gov/earthday

INSIDE

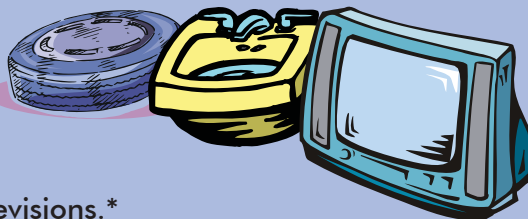
Conservation Tips

Reduce Waste & Junk Mail

Special Collection Event

WHAT: Special Collection Event
WHERE: Houghton Park & Ride
WHEN: Saturday, April 21, 2007 - 9 am to 3 pm
PRESENTED BY: City of Kirkland & King County

This is a great opportunity to clean out your garage and safely recycle items that normally cannot be left at the curb with your regular Waste Management pick-up service. Examples of items that you can bring are tires, motor oil, batteries, clothing, porcelain toilets and sinks, electronic equipment and televisions.*



Always Secure Your Load – It's the Law!

As of July 2005, the fine for transporting an unsecured load is \$194. If an item falls off a vehicle and causes bodily harm, the driver now faces gross misdemeanor charges and penalties of up to \$5000 and/or up to a year in prison. Please see <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities> and click on Secure Your Load, or call (206) 296-4466 for more information and tips for securing loads.



*Restrictions apply and some items are not collected. Some user fees apply to cover the cost of proper processing and recycling. All items collected will be recycled. View the flyer at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle or call the Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 for more information.

Funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology

Irrigation System Tune-Up Tips

Now is the time to get your irrigation system ready for an efficient watering season. A properly functioning, well-maintained system will keep your landscape healthy while making every drop count! Here are a few tips to be sure your system is ready to go:



- Look for and repair leaks and broken spray heads.
- Remove plant material (moss, grass or foliage) that has grown over or is blocking spray heads.
- Adjust spray heads to avoid watering the street, driveways or sidewalks.
- Avoid watering when it rains or install a rain shutoff device to do it for you. For rebates on the installation of rain sensors and weather-based irrigation controllers, visit www.cascadewater.org or call (425) 587-3907.
- Water early in the day (before 9 a.m.) to reduce water lost to evaporation.
- For a complete list of irrigation system tips including guides on watering according to lawn and plant needs, watch for the Irrigation System Tune-up Tips flyer with your reminder letter for backflow prevention assembly testing.

Also available for qualified customers are free one-on-one instructional sessions with a licensed and insured irrigation professional on how to operate irrigation systems for maximum efficiency and other tips for improving the health and appearance of lawn and gardens. Call (425) 587-3907 for details.

Northwest Natural Yard Days & Natural Yard Care Neighbors



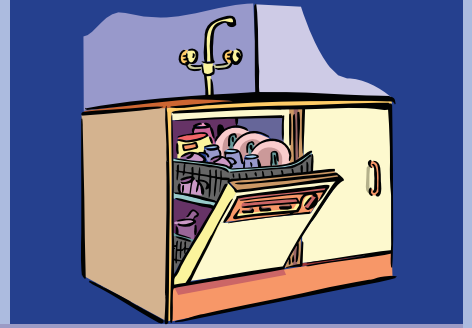
King County's **Northwest Natural Yards Days** will be from April 15th – May 15th. Participating retailers will be offering 25% or more off natural yard care products such as mowers, compost, slug and snail bait, moss control, etc. For more information, call the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or visit www.yarddays.com.

Learn how to maintain and improve your yard using methods that manage pests without harmful chemical pesticides, reduce water usage, and build healthy soil in a series of 3 evening seminars. Call (425) 587-3851 for more details about the **Natural Yard Care Neighbors** program.

Conservation Tips

► In the kitchen:

- Do not pre-rinse dishes. Most newer dishwashers do not require pre-rinsing.
- Wash only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher. You will not only save water, but energy as well.



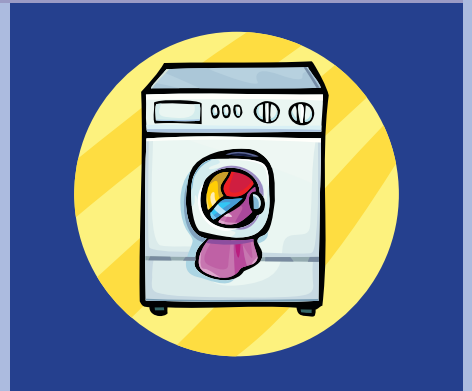
► In the bathroom:

- Turn the water off. Minimize faucet use when shaving and brushing teeth.
- Take showers instead of baths. A bathtub holds up to 50 gallons of water - a typical shower uses less than 20 gallons.
- Shorten your shower by 1 minute. Cut back on your shower time and you will gain big savings in water and energy.



► For the laundry room:

- Wash only full loads of laundry. You will save water and energy!
- Consider purchasing a new clothes washer that is water- and energy-efficient. Rebates are available for qualified models. Visit www.cascadewater.org and click on rebates.



► Around the house:

- Fix those leaking faucets. Research has shown that an average of 8% of all home water use is wasted through leaks. For instructions on how to check for a toilet leak, visit www.cascadewater.org and click on conservation and then tips.
- Reuse clean household water. Collect all the water that is wasted while waiting for the hot water to reach your faucet and use it to water your houseplants or outdoor planters. Do the same with water that is used to boil eggs or steam vegetables.



While supplies last, conservation kits are available free of charge. Please call (425) 587-3907 for more details.

For more conservation tips and rebate opportunities, visit www.cascadewater.org and click on conservation.

Recycle Your Food Waste with Yard Waste

Residents of Kirkland can recycle meat, fruit and vegetable scraps as well as food-soiled paper in their gray yardwaste carts. The City's waste hauler, Waste Management, takes the yard+food waste to the Cedar Grove Compost facility in Maple Valley where it is shredded and put into large piles. The piles are covered with a thick fabric to speed up the composting process and in about eight weeks the mixture becomes a valuable soil amendment. The resulting compost improves soil health and provides nutrients for plants. For more information: www.cedar-grove.com; www.metrokc.gov/soils; (206) 296-4466.

While supplies last call (425) 587-3812 for a free bag of Cedar Grove compost.

What is accepted in the gray yardwaste cart?

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Meat & fish scraps (bones okay)
- Cheese & dairy scraps
- Eggshells & nutshells
- Tea bags & coffee grounds with paper filters
- Used paper towels & napkins
- Used paper food wrap
- Paper take-out cartons
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Empty milk cartons & juice cartons
- Shredded paper



What isn't accepted?

- Plastic
- Styrofoam
- Diapers
- Pet waste/litter
- Foil
- Liquids/fats, oil & grease



If you would like a reusable container to collect food waste in the kitchen prior to emptying it in the gray yardwaste cart, please contact us at recycle@ci.kirkland.wa.us or (425) 587-3812. Available while supplies last.

Reduce Waste & Junk Mail

The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 100 billion pieces of bulk mail every year. We all get inundated with annoying junk mailings. While we cannot eliminate them, there are some things we can do to reduce unread junk mail deliveries.

King County has published a list of waste reduction activities that include ways to reduce junk mail. Suggestions include getting off lists for credit offers and signing up for Mail Preference Service to remove your name from several national mailing lists at once.

Visit www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/wasteprevention and click on Reduce Junk Mail.



Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call (425) 587-3907 or email vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is a serious, even fatal illness. It can affect people, horses, certain types of birds, and other animals. The virus is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. The best ways to prevent West Nile virus are to avoid mosquito bites, and to reduce populations of the species of mosquitoes that are likely to carry the virus. The City of Kirkland is also taking steps to protect the public. For further information on West Nile virus, see www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and enter West Nile in the search box or call (425) 587-3800.

And remember - **mosquito problems start at home.**



Don't Give Mosquitoes a Chance!

Mosquitoes need water to breed and grow. It doesn't take much water and it doesn't take much time. So, almost anything that will hold water for one week or more can produce these pests. Many places around your home may cause mosquito problems. Get rid of places where water collects and mosquitoes won't have a chance!

Car Wash Fundraisers

Are you holding a car wash as a way to raise money for your non-profit community group? If so, make sure that you keep the soapy oily and dirty wash water out of storm drains. It is against the law in Kirkland to discharge wash water to storm drains, as what you put in these drains you put into the nearest lake or stream. Please email recycle@ci.kirkland.wa.us or call the City at (425) 587-3800 for further information.

The following are two alternatives for handling car wash runoff:

- **Sell Tickets for Professional Car Washes.** The Puget Sound Car Wash Association partners with community groups to offer tickets redeemable at professional car washes throughout the Puget Sound area. See www.bakeco.com and click on Order Form Car Wash Tickets for further details or call the City at (425) 587-3800 for a program brochure.
- **Check out a Car Wash Kit.** If you do choose to hold your own car wash, the City has kits available for check out free of charge to divert car wash runoff into the sanitary sewer. Call (425) 587-3800 to reserve a kit well in advance of the date you plan to hold a car wash. The kits are popular, especially on summer weekends.



Printed on Recycled Paper.



City of Kirkland
Department of Public Works
123 5th Avenue
Kirkland, Washington 98033



Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

PRESORTED STD
PAID
US POSTAGE
KIRKLAND, WA
PERMIT NO. 268